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Outrage as Brixton pub landlord blacks up to host Ku Klux Klan themed party

RACE ROW: SIMON TICKNER, RIGHT, BLACKED-UP IN HIS "WITCH DOCTOR" OUTFIT

BEN MORGAN | SIMON FREEMAN | BENEDICT MOORE-BRIDGER
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A landlord was at the centre of a race row today after hosting a Ku Klux Klan-themed Halloween party at his Brixton pub.

Simon Tickner blacked-up in a "witch doctor" costume and was paraded around the Queens Head by a black partygoer dressed in a Klansman's outfit, who was also pictured giving an apparent Nazi salute.

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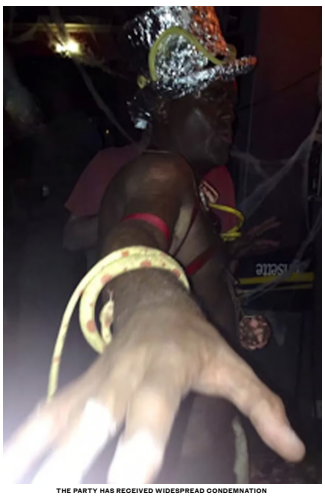
When a woman complained on Facebook that the party was inappropriate, she received an obscene response, apparently from the pub's account.

Photographs of the event went viral on Twitter as locals condemned the party. Today Lee Jasper, the race relations campaigner, joined a growing chorus of criticism.



THE PARTY HAS RECEIVED WIDESPREAD CONDEMNATION

But Mr Tickner, 45, was unrepentant about the party. He said he was planning to give up the lease on the pub in Stockwell Road that he has run since 2011, adding: "It was one hell of a party."

Nisha Damji, a PR worker, was horrified when photographs from the party appeared on her Facebook timeline.

She said: "Just because the person who was wearing the Klan outfit is black, doesn't somehow make it okay and certainly doesn't justify the Nazi salute. It's absolutely inappropriate especially in Brixton where there has been a history of racial tension."

She added: "Because I was friends on Facebook with the Queens Head they were able to see the conversation I was having with my friends about it.

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makes it okay" are wrong too.

Mr Tickner said he was "not interested" in the criticism. He added: "I've put on parties with and for the black community for 25 years, so anyone who knows me knows what I'm doing.

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"The whole point of this place is that it's inclusive. It was a party where 75 per cent of guests were black and no one complained. We were taking the piss out of people with sensitivities."

Mr Tickner last night told BBC London that he did not write the Facebook post himself and claimed he did not know who was behind it, saying there a number of people with access to the account.

He added: "It was an absurdist joke, basically. Anyone I've offended I'd like to apologise to. I've no cause to offend the black community."

He said he did not know who posted the response to Ms Damji on Facebook as "lots of people" had the log-on details. He added: "It could've been anyone. It was a long night."

BBC London reported that Lambeth Council is investigating any possible breach of licensing rules.

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